

Do Food Expiration Dates Really Matter?

How many times have you pulled an item from the back of the fridge and wondered if it is still good? You probably look for signs of mold and sniff it (then ask someone else if it smells funny). You also check packaging to find a date. Many people will immediately toss the food out if it is past this printed date, even if it looks and smells fine, just to be on the safe side.

With the exception of infant formula, dates are not an indicator of the product's safety and are not required by Federal Law. These dates are voluntarily printed by manufacturers to indicate best quality. Here are some clarifications from the USDA:

- **"Best if Used By/Before"** indicates when a product will be of best flavor or quality. It is NOT a "purchase by" or safety date.
- **"Sell-By"** date tells the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. It is NOT a safety date.

- **"Use-By"** date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is NOT a safety date except for when used on infant formula.

With the exception of infant formula, if the date passes during home storage, a product should still be safe if stored properly until signs of spoilage appear. Spoiled foods have an off odor, flavor or texture due to naturally occurring spoilage bacteria. Of course, any food with signs of spoilage should not be eaten—instead put it in your food/yard waste cart so it can be processed into compost. Visit RecycleFood.com for more great ideas about reducing food waste and saving money.



Damaged Clothes Aren't Garbage Anymore

Did you know that you can donate your holey, stained, ripped or worn-out clothes instead of trashing them? Donation locations want all of your clothes, shoes and linens—in almost ANY condition (except wet or heavily soiled). These worn out fabrics are sorted and then recycled into many new products, ranging from athletic equipment to insulation.

Even single shoes, socks, gloves and other items can be matched with other "singles" to be used by people in need.

To help in the sorting process, use separate bags for useable and unusable items.

In Federal Way, please drop-off these items at Goodwill, donation bins located in shopping center parking lots or a Clothes for a Cause Fundraiser (ClothesforaCauseFundraiser.com). Visit KingCounty.gov/ThreadCycle for more information.



Get Paid for Your Opinion!

Earn a \$50 gift card to a local store, just by providing feedback and input about our environmental education programs. We schedule small group discussions on a variety of topics throughout the year, so sign up for topics that interest you and fit your schedule. These informal feedback sessions typically last 60-90 minutes.

To get on the list, please email your contact information to: recycle@cityoffederalway.com

New Neighbors?

If you see new neighbors moving in, welcome them to the neighborhood with a muffin basket. While you are chatting with them, also let them know about the special cardboard pickup. Waste Management offers free pickup of large amounts of cardboard or other recycling for residential customers, outside the regularly scheduled service. Just call 1-800-592-9995 to sign up!



If your neighbors don't have garbage service through Waste Management, suggest the Bow Lake Transfer Station & Recycling Center. See last page for details.

Need a Curbside Recycling Guide?

Pick up your guide at City Hall at 33325 8th Ave S, Federal Way or contact Waste Management at 800-592-9995 or RecycleNW@wm.com



Where Does My Stuff Go?

GARBAGE: Trucks haul garbage to the closest "transfer station" where it's loaded into huge trailers and taken to the King County Regional Landfill near Maple Valley. This material isn't sorted and doesn't turn into compost—it just sits there. Some material decomposes over time, releasing gas that is captured and processed into pipeline-quality natural gas. KingCounty.gov/SolidWaste

RECYCLING: Trucks bring your recycling to Waste Management's facility in Auburn, where it's loaded into trailers and sent to their "materials recovery facility" located in the Tacoma tideflats. Here people remove any garbage by hand, while machines sort-out the different materials. Sorted materials are packed into large bales and shipped to a variety of recyclers in the US and Asia to be turned into new items. wmnorthwest.com/crcvideo

FOOD & YARD WASTE: Trucks haul yard waste, food scraps and compostable paper to Cedar Grove Composting near Maple Valley. After grinding and mixing, it is formed into huge piles that are eventually turned into compost. Once the compost is ready, any remaining garbage is screened out, and the finished material is shipped to your local home and garden store. GoGreenScene.com

Great Job Federal Way!

ALL Federal Way multi-family complexes (apartment, condominiums and mobile homes) now have recycling on-site! If your complex needs recycling assistance or educational materials, please contact the City of Federal Way Recycling at recycle@cityoffederalway.com or 253-835-2771.

Follow These Three Simple Rules When Recycling:



Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans and paper.



Keep foods and liquids out of the recycling.



Keep plastic bags out of the recycling bin. No bagged recyclables. Take plastic bags back to your local grocer.

For more tips on how to recycle, visit RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Is it hazardous?

If the label says **DANGER, POISON, WARNING** or **CAUTION**, it is hazardous.

Hazardous products should not go in household trash.

Free safe disposal at the Auburn Hazardous Wastemobile.

Accepts the following:

FUEL



OIL-BASED PAINT, STAINS, AND STRIPPERS



CLEANING PRODUCTS (BLEACH, TOILET CLEANER)



Auburn Hazardous Wastemobile

The Outlet Collection
1101 Outlet Collection
Way, Auburn
*(Located in the outside
loading dock, to the left
of Nordstrom Rack)*

Sat & Sun 10 AM–5 PM

HazWasteHelp.org
206-296-4692

AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS (OIL, ANTIFREEZE, CAR WAX)



Don't Watch Paint Dry; Learn Proper Disposal



...But seriously, what to do with old paint? Well, that depends on the type.

Latex (water-based) paint is no longer considered a hazardous waste. It can be tossed in the garbage with the lid off when solidified. Don't have time to wait for it to dry? Just mix the paint with equal parts cat litter, sawdust or shredded paper. Once the paint cannot "flow" out of the can, it is ready for disposal. For several cans over half full, double-line a cardboard box with plastic bags and then add paint and thickener of your choice.

Oil-based paint is considered "hazardous" and needs to be taken to a proper disposal location. The great news is that the **Auburn Hazardous Wastemobile** accepts this type of paint.

If you have a large quantity of paint and it is still in good condition, you can offer to give it away. (See online posting options on page 5.) Please note that most charities have more paint than needed, so they don't often accept it.

Off-Site Recycling & Disposal Options

See below for proper disposal of items that **CANNOT** go in your garbage or recycling.

TVS & COMPUTERS

TVS, laptops, computers and monitors are not allowed in the garbage or recycling, and should be taken to one of the locations below for free recycling—working or not.

eCycleWashington.org

Deseret Industries
2200 S 320th St #1A,
Federal Way

Goodwill
32521 Pacific Hwy S, Federal Way



MEDICATION

Drop off leftover, expired and unwanted medication for free and safe disposal during business hours. Never flush these down the toilet!

MedicineReturn.org

Federal Way Police Department Lobby
33325 8th Ave S, Federal Way

Public Health / HealthPoint
33431 13th Pl S, Federal Way

Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy
301 S 320th St, Federal Way



ELECTRONICS

Printers, cell phones, stereos, and other household electronics should be properly recycled.

TakelBackNetwork.org

UpTekk
219 Frontage Rd N, Pacific
206-497-9979

USED COOKING OIL

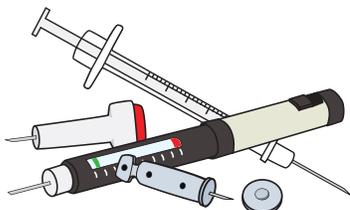
Used cooking oil can be recycled into biodiesel. Pour slowly into the black collection tank, under the “General BioDiesel” banner in the parking lot.

French Lake Dog Park
31531 1st Ave S, Federal Way



NEEDLES & SHARPS

Used needles and sharps do not belong in the garbage or recycling because they can injure workers and spread diseases. Place in a puncture-resistant container with a tight fitting lid.



Bow Lake Transfer Station
18800 Orillia Rd S, Tukwila

Public Health
33431 13th Place S,
Federal Way

FLUORESCENT BULBS

Fluorescent bulbs and tubes cannot go in the garbage or recycling and must be taken to a location for free recycling. LightRecycle.org



Northshore Ace Hardware
35419 21st Ave SW, Federal Way

Batteries Plus Bulbs
31830 Pacific Hwy S, Federal Way

BATTERIES

All types of batteries are accepted at the Wastemobile (see previous page). There are also blue tubes for household battery collection at City Facilities:

Federal Way City Hall
33325 8th Ave S, Federal Way

Federal Way Community Center
876 S 333rd St, Federal Way

Dumas Bay Centre
3200 SW Dash Point Rd, Federal Way



RECYCLING DATABASE

Have other things to recycle? Look them up!
King County What Do I Do With...?
206-477-4466

KingCounty.gov/WhatDoIDoWith

Off-Site Recycling & Disposal Options

See below for **OFF-SITE OPTIONS** instead of placing in your garbage or recycling.

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS



The Washington State Office of the Attorney General has a list of free community shredding events. 1-800-551-4636
atg.wa.gov/shredathon.aspx

MATTRESSES

Spring Back/NW Furniture Bank
2301 Dock St, Tacoma
253-302-3868
SpringBackRecycling.com
(Pick up options available for a fee)



CLOTHING & HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Donate your gently used clothing and household goods to local clothing banks and second hand stores. Ripped, stained and damaged clothes, shoes, and linens aren't garbage anymore and can be donated too. KingCounty.gov/ThreadCycle



FURNITURE & BULKY ITEMS

If you can't recycle or give away your bulky items, then you will need to pay to dispose of them as garbage.

Bow Lake Transfer Station
18800 Orillia Rd S, Tukwila

Algona Transfer Station
35315 W Valley Hwy, Algona

206-477-4466
KingCounty.gov/SolidWaste



STYROFOAM BLOCKS



Styro Recycle
23418 68th Ave S
(West Valley Hwy), Kent
253-838-9555
StyroRecycle.com

PLASTIC BAGS

Clean plastic bags, dry cleaning bags and other types of film plastic can be recycled at most grocery stores. PlasticFilmRecycling.org



MICROWAVES & METAL



Calbag Metals
1602 Marine View Dr, Tacoma
253-572-6800
Calbag.com

POST AN ONLINE AD

Reusable household items can be sold or given away. Try posting a free ad. You will be amazed at what other people might want.

- Craigslist
- OfferUp
- Facebook Buy Nothing Group

RECYCLING EVENT

The City of Federal Way holds recycling events every April and September where residents can drop off a variety of items not typically collected at the curb.

CityofFederalWay.com/RecyclingEvent



Free Holiday Tree Pickup

Fresh holiday trees are picked up for free from all Federal Way residents each year—even if you do not subscribe to yard waste collection. For your driver's safety, please cut trees if over 6' tall and place in your yard waste cart or as close to the curb as possible (apartment complex managers should designate an on-site area). If you have a hard time getting your tree to the curb, then your driver will also have a hard time getting it in the truck, so please cut into manageable pieces. Decorated or flocked trees

cannot be composted and will be charged as garbage.



HOMES

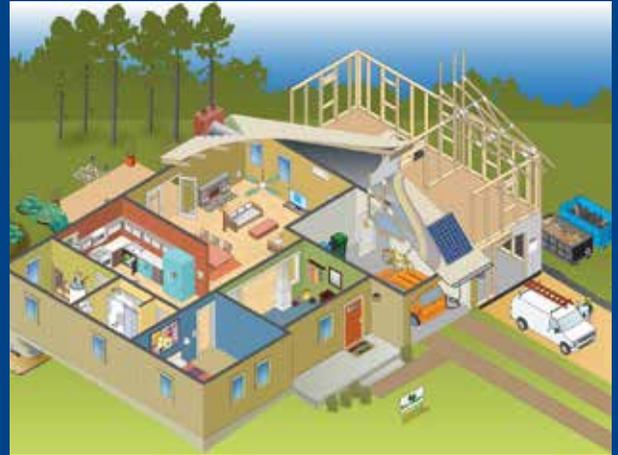
(with individual garbage service):

Jan 2-6 (Monday is a holiday, so collection is shifted one day later that week) &

Jan 8-12 on your neighborhood collection day

APARTMENTS, CONDOS & MOBILE HOMES

(with a shared garbage bill):
Dec 27 & Jan 3



Remodeling? King County Has Tips!

King County Green Tools has lots of tips and ideas for your upcoming remodeling project.
kingcounty.gov/GreenTools

Yard Debris Disposal Options

1. Self-haul: Load up the truck (yours, neighbor's or rental) and haul your branches to Bow Lake Recycling & Transfer Station at 18800 Orillia Rd S in Tukwila. Fees start at \$12 for the first 320 pounds—the lowest price around! You can also haul your branches to one of the Federal Way free Recycling Events in April and September.

2. Curbside: Waste Management provides a variety of collection options, from extra pick-ups to large containers delivered to your driveway. Please call 1-800-592-9995 for pricing and details.

3. Chipping: Borrow or rent a chipper to turn your branches into mulch on-site.

4. Tree Service: There are lots of tree services around that will trim your trees and chip or haul away all the yard debris for you. Remember to check if they are licensed and bonded before hiring.



Keep Leaves Out of Storm Drains

Fallen leaves can plug storm drains, causing flooding in our streets and harming our creeks. City crews work to keep storm drains clear, but with over 12,000 drains in Federal Way alone, we could use your help! Please remove fallen leaves and place in your yard waste cart or home compost pile. Never rake or blow leaves into the storm drain as this is a violation of City code. Remember, "The drain is just for rain."

If flooding is severe and you are unable to clear the drain, please call City of Federal Way Public Works at 253-835-2700.



Still Hammering Away on the South King Tool Library

Imagine Imagine a “library” where you can check out a weed-eater for yard care, folding tables for a party, or a chop saw for your home remodel project. The volunteers at the South King Tool Library (SKTL) are working hard to make this a reality for area residents. With a suggested donation of \$20-40 to join, your household will have near unlimited access to tools and equipment.

This idea is becoming a reality now that SKTL has a site in Federal Way to build storage using old cargo containers - plus design help from a pro-bono architect and structural engineer. SKTL now has a fiscal sponsor and tax-deductible non-profit status, plus grant funding, a growing tool inventory, and a small group of dedicated volunteers. All the pieces are in place and the hard (and fun) work is about to begin!

So, how can you help? Contact info@SouthKingTools.org to volunteer! No experience required – just a desire to help open this fledgling not-for-profit organization. Volunteers can help with tool inventory and repair, data entry, operations planning, communication and more. (If you have tool donations, please hold on to them until the building is constructed. At that time, donations will happily be accepted.)

Website: SouthKingTools.org
Email: info@southkingtools.org
Facebook: facebook.com/FWToolLibrary

Get Your Items Repaired for FREE

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 25, 3–6 PM for the free Repair Café at Federal Way City Hall. The King County EcoConsumer sponsors events where people can bring small household items and clothing for repair. Experienced all-purpose fixers and sewing fixers will work on your items for free.

At all of these events, people bring in household items including small furniture, small appliances, personal electronics and clothing. (What items do we see the most? Lamps and pants!) Our overall success rate for repairing items or diagnosing the problem (you may need to get a new part, for example) has been 80 percent or higher. Electronics are often the most difficult to fix.

Repair Café
Wednesday, October 25
3 – 6 PM
City Hall • 33325 8th Ave S

Contact Tom Watson at tom.watson@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4481 if you have questions or to sign up.

Switch to LED Holiday Lights and Save Big!



When it is time to deck the halls, consider switching to LED lights (and recycling your old light strands).

If Clark Griswold from the “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” movie powered his 25,000 incandescent C9 bulbs five hours a day for the month of December, it would cost approximately **\$2,615!** However, it would only cost **\$30** if they were all LED bulbs!

(Data from US Energy Information Administration)

So, invest in new LED lights and recycle your old ones. King County posts a list of locations to recycle your old light strands. Visit kingcounty.gov/EcoConsumer and click on Green Holidays, then Recycle Holiday Lights.



Where to Take Extra Garbage and Other Items

There are two King County transfer stations near Federal Way—Bow Lake and Algona. Bow Lake is a newer facility with extended hours and accepts wood, yard debris and recycling.

| FACILITY | Bow Lake Transfer Station | Algona Transfer Station |
|----------------|--|---|
| ADDRESS | 18800 Orillia Rd S Tukwila | 35315 W Valley Hwy Algona |
| HOURS | <i>Station hours:</i> Mon-Fri: 24 hours a day Sat-Sun: 8:30 AM–5:30 PM <i>Recycle area hours:</i> Mon-Fri 6 AM–8 PM Sat-Sun: 8:30 AM–5:30 PM | Mon-Fri: 7 AM–4:30 PM Sat-Sun: 8:30 AM–5:30 PM |
| ITEMS ACCEPTED | Garbage Furniture & Bulky Items Wood & Yard Debris Appliances Cardboard, Paper, Bottles & Cans | Garbage Furniture & Bulky Items No recycling available |
| FEES | <i>Minimum Fee for Garbage:</i> \$24.25 (\$144.34 / ton) <i>Minimum Fee for Wood:</i> \$12 (\$75 / ton) Fridge/Freezer: \$30 Other Appliances: \$10 Cardboard/Paper/ Bottles/Cans: Free | <i>Minimum Fee for Garbage:</i> \$24.25 (\$144.34 / ton) No recycling available |



CONTACT INFORMATION

Waste Management

1-800-592-9995,
M-F 7AM-7PM, Sat 9AM-1PM
wmnorthwest.com/FederalWay

- Start, cancel or change garbage, recycling or yard waste services
- Missed collection and/or cart replacement
- Vacation service hold (advance notice only)

City of Federal Way Recycling

253-835-2771
recycle@cityoffederalway.com
CityofFederalWay.com/Recycling

- Assistance with recycling and composting

King County Transfer Stations

206-477-4466
KingCounty.gov/SolidWaste

- Facilities for disposing of garbage for a fee

Household Hazards Line

1-888-ToxicEd (869-4233),
HazWasteHelp.org

- Assistance with reducing and disposing of household hazardous waste

Like this info, but don't want to keep a paper copy?

Bookmark CityofFederalWay.com/Recycling

(Newsletters listed under Residential Recycling Services)